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Days and Ways in Old Boston. Edited by William S. Rossiter. 144 pp. Ills. R. H. Sterns & Co., Boston, 1915. 50 cents. 9 x 6½.

This booklet, originally intended as an advertisement for an outfitting firm, although metamorphosed into a brochure on Boston of the olden time, still serves the purpose for which it was first projected. The work is a collection of papers on special topics concerning Boston, prepared by writers of more or less note. Thus the editor of the little book contributes a chapter on Boston in 1847; Thomas Wentworth Higginson writes of other ways and days in Boston; an anonymous lady gives her recollections of olden Boston; the history of the Boston water-front is written by Frank H. Forbes; the daughter of Julia Ward Howe pleasantly describes her mother's old rosewood desk; the well-known editor of the *Boston Herald* adds a few lines on advertising in Boston newspapers since 1847. The chapter on Boston as a shopping city features only the business firm which publishes the book. The paper on Boston banks in their relation to national development, based on information supplied by Francis R. Hart, vice-chairman of the Board of Directors of the Old Colony Trust Co., brings the volume to a close.

D. H. B.

In the Old West. As it was in the days of Kit Carson and the "Mountain Men." By George F. Ruxton. Edited by Horace Kephart. 345 pp. (Series: Outing Adventure Library). Outing Publishing Co., New York, 1915. \$1. 7½ x 5.

A readable narrative, partly romance but largely an arrangement of actual experiences around a central theme, which gives the life of the trapper in the area between the Great Plains and the Pacific from 1830 to 1840. The story centers around one La Bonté who, forced to flee from Mississippi, goes to St. Louis, fits out as a trapper and joins a company of adventurers. Most of the book tells of the adventures of La Bonté and his boon companion, Killbuck, in strife with the Indians. A trip to the coast along the Oregon trail, a visit to the missions of California, a *mêlée* at a Mexican fandango and a chapter on the Mormons are woven into the tale.

ROBERT M. BROWN.

The Salton Sea. A study of the geography, the geology, the floristics, and the ecology of a desert basin. By D. T. MacDougal and collaborators. 182 pp. Maps, ills. *Carnegie Inst. Publication No. 193.* Washington, D. C., 1914. \$5. 12 x 9½.

The main topic is the ecology and chemistry of the Salton Sink. The first sixth of the book deals rather with aspects of earth-science. The treatment is technical. We do not learn whether the Salton Sea was, or is now, drinkable, but that it contained, when the Colorado stopped flowing into it, 300 parts solid in 100,000 parts, the ocean having 3,518, Salt River 101 and the Colorado 69. Salt River is perfectly drinkable, though distinctly salt. Salton Sea had three times as much solids at first and nine times by 1913. In an incidental way we learn that there were Colorado River fish in the Salton Sea at first, but they did not multiply. Carp were introduced and did multiply, and many aquatic birds came to feed on them. We do not learn the effect of the increasing salinity on the fish.

The Sea has been falling 5 feet a year, leaving *semiannual* strands. The evaporation from small pans is given at 6 or 7 feet a year. There is no comment on the disagreement nor reference to Bigelow's very interesting discovery that the Sea is covered with a layer of water-vapor, which hinders evaporation. The book has no index.

E. E. Free writes of geology and soils, including an account of the history of the basin and Sea. He regards as "unproven" the usual explanation of the origin of the sink: that the Colorado pushed its delta across the head of the Gulf of California, whereupon the sea-water evaporated from the headward part and left the basin. The original "Blake Sea" was fresh, the proof being abundance of fossil creatures that live only in fresh or brackish water, tufa deposits like those of the present Salton Sea, and the absence of such salt deposits as the ocean must necessarily leave behind it. The shores and floor

of the sink consist, not of marine deposits, but of subaërial desert wash. This was doubtless formed above sea-level. It is possible that the basin sank gradually below sea-level contemporaneously with the building of the delta across the Gulf trough, so that the ocean never got into the upper portion of the valley. Probably the river did not build its delta across while the region was above the sea, for it has a habit of switching on its delta and had it done so before the sinking it would have broken the dam of the detrital delta and washed it away.

The Blake Sea did not last long, to judge from its shore-lines. The much smaller Salton Sea will not last a score of years, and the irruption of Colorado River water is a normal event in the history of a river swinging on its conic delta. It occurred in 1905 because conditions were then ready at the river mouth. Perhaps the Imperial Valley irrigation works had less to do with it than has been supposed. Other floods, of greater or less extent have broken into the basin in 1828, '40, '49, '52, '59, '62, and '91, and the same thing has been happening for perhaps 1,000 years.

MARK JEFFERSON.

Alaskan Glacier Studies of the National Geographic Society in the Yakutat Bay, Prince William Sound and Lower Copper River Regions. By Ralph Stockman Tarr and Lawrence Martin, xxvii and 498 pp. Maps, ills., index. National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C., 1914. 10½ x 8.

The field work upon which these studies are based was carried out in the summer seasons of 1909, 1910, 1911 and 1913, with funds furnished largely by the National Geographic Society. Popular and technical reports have both been published at intervals during the progress of the work, but the present volume brings all together in easily accessible form together with considerable new matter. Before the volume was completed, the much lamented death of Professor Tarr occurred, and the last eleven chapters, which deal with the glaciers of Prince William Sound and the Lower Copper River, have been written by the junior author independently.

For such comprehensive studies of a great scenic area open to tourists in some sections, and likely to be increasingly so in others in the near future, it must be admitted that the dress of the volume leaves something to be desired. It is a great pity that the magnificent photograph of Mount Fairweather (15,330 ft. high), which is made the frontispiece, could not have been reproduced by some more satisfactory process than the half-tone plate.

As regards the scientific work, it should be said in general that this has added materially to our knowledge of the characteristics of existing glaciers of the mountain type where they are more adequately nourished than elsewhere upon the globe. Nowhere else is so wide a range in type represented, and it must be a matter of regret that a new classification should be offered which requires the separation of a continuous mass of ice into its component parts and the ascribing to each, in some instances, of a separate type name. Of perhaps the greatest interest in connection with these investigations are the conclusions reached concerning the relation of sudden advances in the glacier fronts and the avalanching of snow by earthquakes within the high areas of alimentation. By noting the time separating the shocks from the times of advance of glaciers of different lengths, it was shown that the delay of the advance at the front is directly proportional to the length of the glacier.

By full use of data derived from earlier expeditions, conclusions of great value have been drawn concerning those advances and recessions of the glacier fronts which are to be ascribed to climatic changes. Detailed surveys of many small areas, generally near the front of the Alaskan glaciers, were made by the surveyors attached to the expeditions, and the results are presented in a series of small special maps, which are included with the general map of Alaska in a pocket at the end of the volume.

The book will be read with interest by many who class themselves as "general readers;" and the glacialist will find it indispensable as a summary of what has been accomplished in a study of the glaciers of the Alaskan field. Though they may serve the general reader, the views of the capitol at Wash-